

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend page 16, line 16 to page 17, line 1 as follows:

Moreover, as shown in Fig. 1 to Fig. 3, a plurality of dimples ~~51~~ 52, 53 being concavities are provided as housing concave portions on the sliding surface 46.

These dimples ~~51~~ are opposed to the outer circumferential surface of the ball portion 31 and opened respectively in circular forms toward a center O of the ball portion 31, and are provided entirely in the latitudinal direction of the sliding surface 46 at the through-hole 45 side further than an equator E of the ball seat 4.

Please amend page 17, line 9 to page 18, line 12 as follows:

In addition, these dimples ~~51~~ are composed of first dimples 52 being first housing portions and second dimples 53 being second housing portions.

The first dimples 52 form lines from the through-hole 45 side being one-end portion in the longitudinal direction of the ball seat 4 to the equator E side along the longitudinal direction A1 of the ball seat 4 and are provided in a plurality of tiers, for example, in three tiers, along the circumferential direction, namely, the latitudinal direction adjacent to each other. In addition, these first dimples 52 have opening areas equal to each other. Namely, the first dimples 52 have diametrical dimensions a equal to each other. Furthermore, for these first dimples 52, the

respective lines are arranged so as to have angles approximately equal to each other in the latitudinal direction of the ball seat 4. In other words, the first dimples 52 are arranged almost uniformly in the latitudinal direction of the ball seat 4. Moreover, the respective tiers of the first dimples 52 are concentrically arranged around a center axis of the ball seat 4.

The second dimples 53 are located between the respective first dimples 52 in the longitudinal direction and latitudinal direction A2 of the ball seat 4. Namely, the second dimples 53 are provided approximately midway between the lines of the first dimples 52, at latitudinal direction positions mutually different from the respective first dimples 52.